

My name is Tammy Santamore and I am the Parent Child Center Coordinator at Lund. Thank you for doing important work on behalf of Vermonters. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you today.

I am here as a representative of the Parent Child Center Network. Lund is a longtime advocate for the prevention work carried out by the Parent Child Center Network. We see the difference this work makes for families and children every single day. I firmly believe that investing in this preventative work changes lives and addresses the most difficult issues that our state and our families are facing today. I also want to thank you for the investment you made in the work of Parent Child Center's last year.

Parent Child Centers make it possible for families to succeed in raising a strong and healthy family by helping them identify and use their strengths to get their children off to a good start. Parent Child Centers fully embrace the Strengthening Families Framework, it is the foundation of our work. We know that the Strengthening Families Framework, coupled with our eight Core Services, helps families to build the skills, structures and supports they need so that parents can be fully present for their children and address their own issues that may be causing challenges in the family. This is key to reducing childhood trauma and helping our children grow into strong, successful Vermonters. Research studies support the common-sense notion that when these Protective Factors are well established in a family, the likelihood of child abuse and neglect diminishes. This work has results that last from generation to generation.

You often hear us say that Parent Child Centers are the answer. For families with young children, we are the answer to problems they face, the questions they ask, to realizing the hopes they have, and to finding the skills they need.

The landscape of our state is continuously changing, and though the PCC Network is several decades old, the work of the PCCs is innovative and responsive to community needs. Despite many years of chronic underfunding, we continue to meet community and family needs and respond to gaps in the system.

Listen to these words from one client of Lund's PCC services:

"I am one woman who was offered the gift to change the course of my life, a life that didn't have to mirror the trauma I grew up with. I had confidence and hope instilled in me to know that I was good enough to not repeat the family cycle I thought I was destined for."

We stand ready to continue to work with you and the various state departments and agencies to ensure that our families are getting high quality support and services so that they too can find the confidence and hope they need to change the course of, not just their own lives, but the lives of their children too.

In order to provide these essential services for families with young children, PCCs must be adequately funded. The Parent Child Center Network is requesting a 3-year phased approach to achieve this. Our request for FY21 is to increase the Master Grant base by \$4million.

Thank you.